(c) The Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh has come a long way since its establishment as the School of Buddhist Philosophy in 1959. Today, it offers courses in Sanskrit, Hindi, English, Tibetan Literature and Buddhist Philosophy; optional subjects, like political Science, Economics, Mathematics, Pali, Comperative Philosophy, Tibetan Medicine and Painting are also taught. Its degrees of Shastri, Shiksha Shastri and Acharya have been equated with those of B.A., B.Ed & M.A. respectively of Jammu and Kashmir University.

Every Institute grows according to its own inner dynamics and the demands of the target groups it attempts to reach and serve. Due to its very location and environment, it was extremely important for CIBS to build an out-reach which it has done through its 24 Gonpa schools and the Duzin Pipiting School, Zanskar.

Development of Sports

2376. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to create a separate sports fund to improve the level of sports in the country;

(b) whether the Government also propose to take the help of voluntary organisations, individuals and different Central/State departments for improving the sports level in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to create a National Sports Development Fund.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Central Government proposes to involve all the concerned agencies in improving the level of sports in the country. The development of sports is essentially in the hands of various Sports Federations/Associations which are voluntary organizations. Sports as a subject also figures on the State list of the Constitution of India.

Indian Ocean Rim States Organisation

2377. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :
SHRI PINAKI MISRA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India, Mauritius, South Africa and other Indian Ocean Rim States have been working towards evolution of an 'Indian Ocean Rim States Organisation' for mutual economic cooperation in the context of formation of WTO and to meet the tough competition these developing countries are inevitably facing from the developed world;

(b) if so, the present status of the initiativ

(c) the contemplated objectives of this new organisation and the status of India therein?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. India participated in the first Inter-Governmental Meeting of seven Indian Ocean Rim countries (viz., Australia, India, Kenya, Mauritius Oman, Singapore and South Africa) convened by Mauritius in March 1995 to initiate contacts for exploring possibilities and scope of economic cooperation and establishment of Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). The meeting agreed on the principles, objectives and direction of the future action programme for a regional economic grouping to promote cooperation in trade, investment, science & technology, tourism, and human resource development Two working Group meetings have been held in Mauritius in August 1995 and May 1996 for preparing a Charter and a Work Programme of cooperation projects which have brought the process forward.

A second Inter-Government Meeting of fourteen IOR ARC countries (viz, Australia, India, Indonesia, Kenya Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tanzania and Yemen was convened in Mauritius in September 1996, which finalised the IOR-ARC Charter and the Work Programme of cooperation.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) is to be formally launched at a Foreign Ministers Meeting being convened by Mauritius in March 1997.

The objectives of the new Association include :

To promote the sustained growth and balanced development of the region and of the Member States and to create common ground for regional economic cooperation;

To foucs on those areas of economic cooperation which provide maximum opportunities to develop shared interests and reap mutual benefits. Towards this end, to formulate and implement projects for economic cooperation relating to trade facilitation, promotion and liberalisation; promotion of foreign investment; scientific and technological exchanges, and tourism, movemen of natural persons and service providers; and development of infrastructure and human resources;

To encourage close interaction of trade and industry academic institutions, scholars and the peoples of the Member States;

To strengthen cooperation and dialogue among Member States in international fora on global economic issues;

To promote cooperation in development of human resources, particularly through closer linkages among training institutions, universities and other specialised institutions of the Member States.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi in Water Commission

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2378. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the arrangements made for the implementation of Official Language Hindi in the Ministry and the Water Commission alongwith the name of the Officer-in-Charge of it and his qualifications?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : There are separate Hindi sections and separate Official Language Implementation Committees in the Ministry of Water Resources as well as in the Central Water Commission for implementation of the Official Language Act and Rules made thereunder. There is a Committee called Hindi Salahkar Samiti also in the Ministry of Water Resources.

The Implementation of Official Language Policy is monitored and reviewed through meetings, reports and inspections.

The officers in charge of it and their qualifications are as under :

1. Shri L.K. Joshi, Joint Secretary (Admn.), in Ministry of Water Resources. His qualifications are M.Sc (Physics) and M.A. (Modern History).

   He comes from Hindi speaking State and Hindi is his mother-tongue.

2. Shri Zaffarul Hasan Member in the Central Water Commission. His qualifications are B.Sc. (Engineering), (Civil) with Honours. He has studied Hindi upto twelfth standard.

[English]

Remove the Gender Bias

2379. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in a bid to remove the gender bias, Government has issued instructions to State Governments to include the mother's name in the application forms, examination form and the certificates; and

(b) if so, the procedure followed in case when mother is divorcee or the child has been adopted by other party?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India, Department of Education has issued instructions to the Central Board of Secondary Education to include the names of both the parents in forms and certificates, providing for exceptions in case of exigencies like parents living separately and a child living with one of the parents. The State Governments have also been requested to consider issuing similar instructions to the School Boards.

Pulse Polio Drops

2380. SHRI K.H MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether some States have succeeded in administering pulse polio drops to children upto the age of five years;

(b) the names of the States where this programme has been completed;

(c) the number of children given oral polio vaccine during 1995-96;

(d) whether a massive health check up programme was taken up in all the Primary Schools during July, 1996; and

(e) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). All States and UT's participated in the Pulse Polio Immunization campaign conducted on 9th December, 1995 and 20th January, 1996. 8.7 crore children were given polio drops on 9.12.95 and 9.3 crore on 20.1.96.

(d) and (e). Yes Sir. A Special School Health Check up Scheme for the students of Primary Classes has been implemented in 27 States and Union Territories from July, 22 to 27, 1996. Remaining States were covered from July-Oct., 1996.

Reports have till now been received from 441 districts. 75.9% schools were covered and 84.91 of the enrolled primary school children were examined for common ailments which included anaemia, worm infestations, night blindness, iodine deficiency disease (goitre), ear discharge, scabies pyoderma, vision defects and dental problems. Statements given State-wise coverage and break-up of number of children examined and found to be suffering from different ailments are attached as *Statement-I* and *Statement-II*